

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04359 060633Z

20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 (ISO) W
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O R 060545Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4820

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T SAIGON 4359

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR VS

SUBJECT: ICCS: IRANIAN WITHDRAWAL PLANS

REF: STATE 077766

1. FOLLOWING CONVERSATIONS WERE HELD WITH IRANIAN OFFICERS BY
EMBOFFS MORNING APRIL 6:

2. EMBOFF CALLED ON GENERAL SODAIKY AT HIS HEADQUARTERS WHERE HE
STATED USG POSITION AS IN REFTEL. SODAIKY, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED
BY HIS TWO SENIOR STAFF OFFICERS, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT IRANIAN
AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT FLIGHT HAD BEEN CANCELLED, THAT THOSE IRANIANS
LEAVING WOULD DEPART ON AIR FRANCE CHARTER FLIGHT APRIL 8,
AND THAT TWENTY IRANIANS WOULD REMAIN. HE URGED EMBOFF VERY STRONGLY
THAT HE BE PROTECTED AS SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION, AND INSTRUCTED
HIS TWO SENIOR OFFICERS PRESENT TO KEEP IT TO THEMSELVES. EMBOFF
STATED IN VIEW OF HIGH QUALITY OF IRANIAN OFFICER CORPS AND
PARTICULARLY THOSE HERE, ANY IRANIAN OFFICER COULD DO JOB OF TWO
OFFICERS. THIS REMARK HAD BENEFICIAL EFFECT AND WE RECOMMEND
EMBASSY TEHRAN REITERATE IT.

3. EMBOFF THEN REACHED CHARGE' KHAZENI WHO HOLED UP IN HIS

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CODE ROOM RECEIVING IMMEDIATE TELEGRAMS. KHAZENI WAS LESS FORTH-

COMING THAN SODAIFY AND MERELY STATED THAT THE DEPARTING IRANIANS WOULD LEAVE ON AIR FRANCE RATHER THAN IRANIAN AF. HE QUESTIONED THE DECISION TO KEEP THE ICCS IN BEING AND THE CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP OF IRAN. HE STATED THERE ARE TWO POSSIBILITIES FACING US: (1) RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS; (2) MILITARY CAPTURE OF SAIGON BY MAY 1. IF THE SECOND CONTINGENCY, WHICH HE TERMED MORE LIKELY, OCCURS, THE ICCS WOULD BE IN THE POSITION OF APPEARING TO RECEIVE THE INVADERS AND INDIRECTLY APPROVE OF THEIR AGGRESSION.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION HELD WITH IRANIAN POLITICAL OFFICERS BY ANOTHER EMBOFF (SEPTEL), THEY ECHOED AND EXPATIATED ON KHAZENI'S QUALMS, WHICH THEY MAY HAVE FOSTERED. THE INFORMED EMBOFF THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO SCHEDULING 8 CIVILIAN IRANIAN OFFICERS TO STAY. IF 12 MILITARY OFFICERS STAY WITH THEM, THAT

SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
MARTIN

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NNN

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